Nextgreen Global pays UPM RM550,000 for nanocellulose technology

PETALING JAYA: Nextgreen Global Bhd is paying Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) RM550,000 under a technology licensing for the production of nanocellulose from oil palm biomass which could be used in packaging products

Nextgreen said in a statement that its unit Nextgreen Pulp & Paper Sdn Bhd (NGPP) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with UPM for the technology licensing.

The technology was developed by a group of UPM researchers led by Assoc Prof Dr Hidayah Ariffin from the faculty of biotechnology and biomolecular sciences and INTROP, UPM.

"The licensing agreement with the duration of 30 months started in August 2019 involving a licensing fee of RM550,000 to be paid by NGPP to UPM," it said.

The MoA is the latest development in the MoU signed between UPM and NGPP in 2017 for a general collaboration.

Nextgreen Global pointed out nanocellulose developed in UPM is a collaboration with Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan.

"Nanocellulose has various potential applications, such as for plastic composite making, cosmetics, as thickening agent in paint and food industries, as well as a strengthening agent for paper products.

"Nanocellulose is produced from paper pulp which is produced from pulp making process.

"As a producer of pulp from oil palm biomass, NGPP will be working with UPM in producing paper packaging product, whereby nanocellulose will be used as an additive in the packaging product to improve its properties," it said.

Through this project, both parties aim to create a green, environmentally friendly and biodegradable food packaging product, which would help the Malaysian government towards achieving its goal in reducing the use of single-use plastics.